

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human  
Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20016

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Pompeo, Azar, Wolf, and Huerta:

Thank you for your continued work to ensure the safety of the American people with respect to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak in China. I write to urge you to implement a temporary ban on commercial travel to China, which I understand is presently under consideration by the Trump Administration.

As you are aware, more than 7,700 people in China have now been confirmed to be infected with the coronavirus and at least 130 have died. Computer modelling estimates that each new case is infecting on average about 2.5 other people. Although the virus appears less deadly than the SARS outbreak, it is difficult to estimate its mortality at this point and mutations to the virus are impossible to predict. Also troubling, the virus appears to easily spread among those who are asymptomatic.

Given China's well-established history of repression, censorship, internet control, and propaganda, it is almost impossible to know if the information received out of China is accurate and reflective of the true reality on the ground and the extent of the spread of the virus. We cannot trust China to be forthcoming and to look out for the best interest of the American people.

While I understand that certain United States air carriers are voluntarily scaling back flights to China as the outbreak continues, given the large number of commercial flights between China and the United States, this may not be enough to ensure the safety of the American people. Today, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin issued a decree closing its border with China in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Additionally, this afternoon, Israeli Health Minister Yaakov Litzman announced that flights between Israel and China would be suspended

until further notice. These were reasonable and prudent precautions that the United States should follow.

In short, it is my strong belief that a temporary travel ban between the United States and China is more than warranted until the outbreak of the coronavirus is contained. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bradley Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradley Byrne  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS